SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

1. **Contracting Activity:**   Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, NJ 07724

2. This requirement will be accomplished via:

[x] New Purchase Order

Purchase Order will be:

[x] Firm Fixed Price

Type of Funds *(e.g. Supply Fund, Franchise Fund, IT, etc.)*:

[X] ___IT_____

3. **Description of Supplies or Services.**

 [X] Supplies

Item name: InformaCast 1 Year Maintenance - Per End Point License - 1000 License Tier

Quantity being procured: 3,900

████████████████████

████████████████████████████████████

4. **Authority Cited.**

[X] FAR 13.106-1(b)(1)
For purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold. Contracting officers may solicit from one source if the contracting officer determines that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available.

5. **Reason for Authority Cited**

[X] Explain need for brand name:

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Central Office Campus currently utilizes Singlewire's Informacast, an IP based Paging System as their emergency broadcast and special announcement systems. Informacast is integrated into the campus Cisco voice over internet protocol (VoIP) telephone system via Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) via secured bi-directional Cisco proprietary source code. The VA has invested over ten million dollars over the last two years to modernize the campus telephone system with Cisco VoIP equipment and over $200,000 for the IP based emergency paging system.

The campus telephone platform is Cisco based with the Cisco Unified Communications Manager (CUCM) as the main application that controls the system. CUCM uses SNMP and Cisco proprietary source code to communicate with the community. Due to the proprietary Cisco source code, no other IP paging system brand can interoperate with the Cisco VoIP telephone system to transmit the information to IP speakers and the VoIP telephone intercom speakers. The interoperability issue between the Cisco based Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone system and other name brand IP Paging Systems is that no other IP Paging System can connect to the desired users or zones and intermittentent voice transmissions over the intercoms and IP speakers. Also, no other name brands have access to the Cisco proprietary code to route messages to IP speakers and Cisco VoIP phones in pre-determined zones of the campus. Without the access to the Cisco proprietary source code, SNMP communication is not possible and therefore, emergency messages cannot be sent to the targeted Cisoc VoIP Phones and IP speakers of a specific zone of the Campus.

Singlewire is the manufacturer of the Informacast IP Paging System and has access to Cisco proprietary source code. Therefore, their IP paging system allows for this bi-directional communication explained above. Extensive technical research by the VA's tele-communications subject matter experts have determined that Singlewire's Informacast is the only product that meets all of the Government's needs based on the existing system equipment and configurations.

6. **Efforts to Obtain Competition.**

[X] There is only one responsible source for this item. Efforts made to locate additional sources are described under the "Market Research" paragraph of this document. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. Procurement data does not include any unnecessary requirements that may inhibit competition.

7. **Actions to Increase Competition.**

[X] Other actions that will be accomplished to increase competition

In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the agency will work with the program office to perform additional market research so that other solutions can be considered for future requirements. The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. **Market Research.**

Market research was conducted by VA Personnel during the time of March 2013 and May 2013. The methods used and results are as indicated below:

[X] The market research consisted of the following:
VA technical personnel conducted market research in March 2013. Market research consisted of VA technical personnel reviewing products similar to Singlewire IP Paging System. The Government's technical experts conducted research to test compatibility of the Kintronics and Valcom IP paging systems with CUCM. The Government's technical experts determined that neither of these products could interoperate with the existing VA CUCM network. Additionally, VA networking subject matter experts regularly review industry trade publications and conduct Internet research to ascertain if any other equipment is available that would meet the VA requirement for IP Paging System. To date our network SMEs have not found another IP based paging system that will work within the parameters of the VA network and VoIP system. VA technical experts have determined that only Singlewire brand name IP Paging equipment can meet all of VA's needs due to the interoperability with the VACO Campus Cisco brand VoIP system.

Market research was also conducted via a Request for Information (RFI) in May 2013 released to all the NASA SEWP IV GWAC contract holders. The Government received four quotes from authorized resellers of Singlewire in response to the RFI. Of the four NASA SEWP IV authorized resellers, three vendors are from Group C and one vendor is from Group D.

9. **Interested Sources.**

[X] No other source has expressed written interest in supplying this item.